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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,627	03/23/2004	Anish N. Puri	069532-0284	2614
48329	7590	11/06/2007	EXAMINER	
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP 111 HUNTINGTON AVENUE 26TH FLOOR BOSTON, MA 02199-7610			UHLENHAKE, JASON S	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/806,627	PURI, ANISH N.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason Uhlenhake	2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 8/9/2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 7-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/20/2007</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanuma (U.S. Pat. 6,746,103) in view of Ikemoto et al (U.S. Pub. 2004/0095420)

Tanuma discloses:

- ***regarding claims 1, 4,*** a printer including a plurality of staggered print heads (Figure 8); identifying one of the plurality of staggered print heads as a reference print head; identifying a plurality of time offsets corresponding to the plurality of staggered print heads, the plurality of time offsets representing different respective printing times of the plurality of staggered print heads relative to the printing time of the reference print head (Column 7, Lines 35-53);
 - for each of the plurality of staggered print heads, determining an effective time as a difference between the printing time and a time offset corresponding to the print head; determining whether to print data for the each of the plurality of staggered print heads based on the effective time corresponding to the print head; (Column 7, Lines 35-53)

Tanuma discloses adjusting strobe pulse delay timing in a print timing controller. A difference between the printing time and the delay timing of the head units must be determined so the print timing controller knows when to fire the appropriate head unit corresponding with the delay timing, therefore Tanuma discloses an effective time.

- **further regarding claim 4,** iteration means for activating the determination means, a first provision means, and a second provision means for each of the plurality of printing times (Figure 8; Column 7, Lines 35-53)

Tanuma does not disclose expressly the following:

- **regarding claims 1, 4,** providing the subset of print data to the print head if it is determined that the print head should print the subset of the print data; otherwise providing a predetermined data set to the print head
- **regarding claim 2, and claim 5,** a step of providing null data to the print head

Ikemoto discloses:

- **regarding claims 1,** providing the subset of print data to the print head if it is determined that the print head should print the subset of the print data; otherwise providing a predetermined data set to the print head (Figure 13; Paragraphs 0101, 0110-0111), for the purpose of preventing quality deterioration of the print result caused by irregular characteristics.

- **regarding claim 2, and claim 5,** a step of providing null data/dummy data to the print head (Figure 13; Paragraphs 0101, 0110-0111), for

the purpose of preventing quality deterioration of the print result caused by irregular characteristics.

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching of Ikemoto into the device of Tanuma, for the purpose of preventing quality deterioration of the print result caused by irregular characteristics.

Claims 3, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanuma (U.S. Pat. 6,746,103) in view of McDonald (U.S. Pub. 2002/0057306)

Tanuma discloses all the claimed limitations above except for the following:

- ***regarding claim 3, and claim 6***, step of providing preheat data to the print head

McDonald discloses:

- ***regarding claim 3, and claim 6***, step of providing preheat data to the print head (Paragraph 0016), for the purpose of getting the print head temperature ready for ink ejection.

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching of a step of providing preheat data to the print head as taught by McDonald into the device of Tanuma. The motivation for doing so would have been to get the print head temperature ready for ink ejection.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see the above rejection regarding Tanuma (U.S. Pat. 6,746,103) in view of Ikemoto et al (U.S. Pub. 2004/0095420).

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 7 – 10 are allowed.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 7 - 8 is the inclusion of the method step of in a first time interval, providing a first portion of the print data to the first print head; providing null data to the second print head; in a second time interval which occurs later than the first time interval by an amount of time equal to the time offset, providing a second portion of the print data to the first print head; and providing the first portion of the print data to the second print head. It is this step found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 9 - 10 is the inclusion of the limitation of means for providing, in a first time interval, a first portion of the print data to the first print head; means for providing, in the fist time interval, null

data to the second print head; means for providing, in a second time interval which occurs later than the first time interval by an amount of time equal to the time offset, a second portion of the print data to the first print head; and means for providing, in the second time interval the first portion of the print data to the second print head. It is this limitation found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Uhlenhake whose telephone number is (571) 272-5916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JSU
October 25, 2007



JULIAN D. HUFFMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
10/29/07